

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

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Claim 1 (currently amended): A data base for storing persistent data, comprising:

a buffer into which is written persistent data to be permanently stored;

a permanent memory connected to the buffer, the permanent memory having at least ~~two~~ first and second storage units, into which the persistent data is alternately written ~~so that a current set of the persistent data is stored in one of the storage units and a preceding set of the persistent data is stored in another of the storage units~~, each storage unit being structured to store a complete permanent configuration for at least one of:

(a) functions,

(b) characteristics, and

(c) a hardware implementation, of a terminal or cards of the terminal, at least one of the permanent configurations stored having a complete configuration available and being selected for hardware implementation.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The data base according to claim 1, wherein the data base further comprises a control mechanism within a first application process for management of a first memory controls writing of the data to be persistently stored into the buffer, the data being generated or modified by the first application process alone or also by other application processes running simultaneously with the first application process.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A data base for storing persistent data, comprising:

a buffer into which is written persistent data to be permanently stored;

a permanent memory connected to the buffer, the permanent memory having at least two storage areas, into which the persistent data alternately written, each storage area being structured to store a complete permanent configuration for at least one of:

(a) functions,

(b) characteristics of a terminal and,

(c) cards of the terminal, at least one of the permanent configuration stored having a complete configuration available and being selected for hardware implementation;

D1 wherein the data base further comprises a control mechanism with a first application process for management of a first memory controls writing of the data to be persistently stored into the buffer, the data being generated or modified by the first application process alone or also by other application processes running simultaneously with the first application process; and

wherein for a number of application processes running simultaneously, a control mechanism within the first application process by exchanging messages with control mechanisms with the other application processes, control accesses, required for loading the data to be persistently stored, of individual application processes running simultaneously, to the buffer using process identification numbers, entered in a shared memory, of the application processes running simultaneously.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The data base according to claim 1, wherein all of the persistent data is stored in the buffer is alternately written into one of the storage units of the permanent memory.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The data base according to claim 4, wherein only modified data sequences are alternately written into storage segments of the permanent memory.

Claim 6 (original): The data base according to claim 5, wherein the modified data sequences are written into the storage segments of the permanent memory at predetermined time intervals.

Claim 7 (original): The data base according to claim 5, wherein the modified data sequences are written into the storage segments of the permanent memory after a predetermined number of modifications.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The data base according to claim 1, wherein only the persistent data, if necessary including reconstruction data, is transferred into the buffer from a first memory which contains a run-time program and associated permanent data.

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Claim 9 (previously presented): The data base according to claim 8, wherein the persistent data is stored in a space-saving manner as a data sequence in the buffer and in the permanent memory.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The data base according to claim 1, wherein the at least one permanent memory is provided for a start program and application software, including data base management software, with use of which configuration data to be written into ~~the~~ a first memory is automatically reconstructed from the permanent data stored in the permanent memory.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The data base according to claim 1, wherein if construction data which is useable for reconstruction is present in the buffer, the configuration data to be written into ~~the~~ a first memory is automatically recovered from the reconstruction data stored in the buffer.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The data base according to claim 1, wherein the buffer has at least ~~two~~ first and second random access memories; functionally connected in series, persistent data stored in the first random access memory being written into the second random access memory so that the first random access memory is available for reloading while persistent data from the second or a further random access memory is written into the permanent memory.

Claim 13 (original): The data base according to claim 1, wherein the permanent memory is a loadable Flash Erasable Programmable Read Only Memory chip.

Claims 14-15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (previously presented): The data base according to claim 1, wherein a number of configuration changes are only performed at a data management side and thereafter at least one of a functional and a hardware change comprising all configuration changes is performed in the terminal.